REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1 - 16 were pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims. By this amendment, claims 1 - 10 and 13 - 16 have been amended. Thus, claims 1 - 16 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Rejection of Claims 1 - 16 under 35 USC §103

In items 3 - 5, on pages 2 - 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 16 under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,715,395 to Brabson et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,630,081 to Rybicki et al.

The Present Invention

The present claimed invention is directed to a system for facilitating the connection of a portable personal computer to a network. The user is permitted to select desired network resources, including peripherals and software, for use by the portable computer. The system informs the user the physical location of the peripherals so the user can select a peripheral proximately located near the user's location. User selection of software causes the system to download the software by the network server for use on the user's computer.

The Brabson et al. Reference

Brabson et al. discloses a system for reducing overhead traffic for locating available resources on a network (Brabson at abstract; Col. 4, lines 20 - 22). A request for a network resource by a node or application operating on the network results in a network search for the targeted resource (Col. 2, lines 38 - 48; Col. 5, lines 37 - 50; Col. 7, lines 31 - 35). The search dynamically locates the needed resource and acquires necessary information about the characteristics of the targeted resource (Col. 5, lines 49 - 50). The location and characteristics of the resources are used by the searching node to set up a session between the source and target

logical units (Col. 5, lines 51 - 53; Col. 6, lines 4 - 6). Once the location of the target resource is known, a route can be computed to the resource by network route selection services (Col. 7, lines 31 - 38). Resources that cannot be located are registered in an Unavailable Resource Table (URT) (Col. 9, lines 28 - 35). By first searching the URT for a target resource, the system can reduce overhead traffic searching for an unavailable resource (Col. 10, lines 8 - 13).

The Rybicki et al. Reference

Rybicki et al. discloses a system for establishing a connection between a local portable computer and a remote stationary computer and for displaying to the local user an icon indicative of the status of the communication link between the two computers (Rybicki et al. at abstract; Col. 2, lines 4 - 24). The displayed icon is in the shape of a traffic light, with red indicating no data is able to be transferred; yellow indicating that some data is being transferred across the link; and green indicating that file transfers may proceed over the link (abstract).

The Present Claimed Invention Patentably Distinguishes Over the Prior Art

The present claimed invention is directed toward a system for connecting and disconnecting a user's (second) computer to/from a network and managing the resources usable through the network by the user's computer. Resource information, including the physical location of the resources, is transmitted across the network to the user's computer by a network (first) computer. When the user's (second) computer is connected to the network, the user's computer sets the desired resources for subsequent usage with its resource setting means. As shown in Fig. 2, the user is presented with information regarding available network resources, including the physical location of the resources, for selection and setting. As such, the Applicant respectfully asserts, the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the Brabson system, which is directed toward attempting to reduce network traffic overhead while searching for network resources.

For example, the present invention is directed toward connecting and disconnecting a

second computer to/from a network in which the second computer selects and sets a network resource based on resource information, including the physical location of the resources, transmitted by a first computer. Brabson is directed toward reducing the overhead traffic involved in locating a resource sought by a network user (Brabson at Col. 4, lines 20 - 22). The present claimed invention presents to the user's (second) computer resource information regarding available network resources, including the physical location of the resources, and permits the user's (second) computer to set a desired resource. In contrast, the resource location system of Brabson attempts to locate a network resource that has already been selected and attempts to reduce the overhead traffic necessary to find the network resource and to determine its availability (Brabson at abstract; Col. 9, lines 28 - 35). Furthermore, the user's computer of the present invention receives the content of the resource information, including the physical location of the resource, from the resource information processing means of the first computer. Brabson fails to disclose the reception of any resource information transmitted by a first managing computer, much less information regarding the physical location of the resource. The Examiner, at item 3, on page 3 of the Office Action, has relied on Brabson at Col. 9, line 28 - Col. 10, line 39; Col. 15, line 44 - Col. 16, line 58; and Col. 17, lines 25 - 62 to allegedly teach this feature. However, these portions of Brabson disclose the use and updating of the Unavailable Resource Table of the managing system of Brabson and fail to disclose resource setting means of a second computer for setting the resource according to the content of the resource information transmitted by the resource information processing means of the first computer and received by the second computer when the second computer is connected to the network, as claimed herein.

Furthermore, in the present invention, the resource information transmitted to the user's (second) computer includes the physical location of the resources. In contrast, the location system of Brabson fails to disclose any reference to the physical location of the sought network resources and instead relies solely on the logical location of the nodes in the network and the status of the nodes as network or end nodes (Brabson at Figs. 1 and 2; Col. 5, lines 20 - 53; Col.

9, lines 8 - 24). The physical location of network resources is irrelevant in Brabson because the system of Brabson is directed at reducing overhead in locating resources connected to nodes on a network so as to establish a route to the desired resource across the network (Brabson at Col. 7, lines 32 - 38). In particular, the resource identifier relied upon by Brabson to identify network resources within the Unavailable Resource Table is only a logical representation of target resources (Brabson at Figs. 7(a) - (c); Col. 9, lines 50 - 51); and only this limited resource information along with unavailability information and search threshold of the URT is necessary for the Brabson system to operate (Figs. 7(a) - (c); Col. 15, lines 21 - 24).

The Examiner has introduced the Rybick et al. reference to allegedly teach the use of mobile computers on a network. However, Rybick et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of the primary reference, Brabson, as discussed above. In particular, Rybicki et al. fails to disclose first computer resource information managing means for managing information relating to network resources, including the physical location of the resources and second computer resource setting means for setting the resource according to the information relating to the resource, as recited in each of the independent claims 1 - 10 and 12 - 16 herein.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and includes all the limitations of that claim plus additional limitations. Therefore, for at least the reasons cited above with respect to claim 10, it is submitted that claim 11 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Summary

It is submitted that none of the references, either taken alone or in combination, teach the present claimed invention. Thus, claims 1 - 16 are deemed to be in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. If any fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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